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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

29 JANUARY 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Martinez – Cyber-Attack on County has Officials on Alert for Elections

(U) A recent cyber-attack of Contra Costa County libraries has officials looking closely at how to keep the upcoming elections safe. Hackers requested ransom but Contra Costa County Library did not pay it. Employees are now being trained how to identify malicious emails. The Contra Costa County Elections Department now looks to this type of tactic being used to undermine people's trust and confidence in the election system. The department said computers that count the votes are independent and exist only in the building and say people's votes are very safe. However, the FBI and other agencies, are trying to determine why the Contra Costa County libraries and election department have been targeted.

SOURCE: 28 January 2020, [NBC News](#)

(U) Riverside County – US Evacuees from China Arrive at Military Base as Coronavirus Outbreak Grows

(U) A flight carrying 240 American evacuees arrived at a military base in Southern California after leaving the epicenter of the deadly coronavirus outbreak in China. The flight chartered by the US Department of State left the Chinese city of Wuhan and landed late Tuesday night in Anchorage, Alaska. After refueling and passenger screenings at Anchorage International Airport, it left for the March Air Reserve Base near Riverside, California. In Alaska, officials conducted two additional health screenings after prior ones in China. All passengers were approved to continue on to California by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Alaska officials said. In California, the passengers will receive more health screenings and undergo a 72-hour observation period.

SOURCE: 28 January 2020, [CNN](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – CDC Tells Travelers to Avoid China in Expanded Travel Warning

(U) Washington – The CDC is advising Americans to avoid all nonessential travel to China, expanding its travel warning from the city of Wuhan to the entire country as the coronavirus outbreak worsens. Last week, the CDC advised against all nonessential travel to Wuhan, the epicenter of the disease's outbreak and where the majority of cases have been reported. The State Department also raised its travel advisory for China from Level 2 to Level 3, asking Americans to reconsider travel to China due to the novel coronavirus. Chinese health authorities said Tuesday that the virus, which was first diagnosed less than a month ago, has now killed 106 people and infected 4,515.

SOURCE: 28 January 2020, [CNBC](#)

(U) Louisiana – 14-Year-Old Suspect Facing Terrorism Charges for Threats to Schools

(U) Iota – A teenager is in custody in connection with threats made against three schools in the town of Iota. Administrators closed school Thursday and Friday because of social media threats. Almost a week's-long investigation into threats made toward Iota elementary, middle and high schools led to the arrest of a teen who police say is a student at Iota Middle School. He is allegedly responsible for posting threats on Snapchat and Instagram.

SOURCE: 28 January 2020, [KLFY](#)

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(U) Massachusetts – Harvard Department Chair, BU Researcher Charged with Concealing Ties to China

(U) Boston – The chairman of the chemistry department at Harvard University, Dr. Charles Lieber, 60, is accused of lying to federal authorities regarding his ties to China and was arrested Tuesday, officials announced. According to a criminal complaint, Lieber did not disclose that he was being paid a salary, and living expenses by China's Thousand Talents Program and the Wuhan University of Technology. Federal investigators also determined that Lieber was awarded more than \$1.5 million to establish a nanotechnology research lab at WUT. Lieber is accused of making false statements about his connections to China on National Institutes of Health grant applications, those programs required Lieber to disclose if he was working with any foreign power. Another case announced Tuesday involves a Boston University (BU) researcher who is accused of failing to disclose her status as a lieutenant in the Chinese People's Liberation Army. According to the indictment, Yanqing Ye, 29, was taking orders from PLA superiors while conducting her research at BU.

SOURCE: 28 January 2020, [WVCB](#)

(U) Nevada – Bomb Threat Briefly Closes Fremont Street Experience

(U) Las Vegas – A man left a threatening note inside a business at the Fremont Street Experience on Monday night, prompting a precautionary closure of the area. Las Vegas police said at 8:23 p.m. a man in his 30s was asked to leave a gift shop on Fremont Street. The man threatened an employee as he left. He then returned an hour later, walked in the store briefly, and left again. The employee found a note claiming there was a bomb inside the store. As a precaution Fremont Street was closed from Main Street to 3rd Street while a police K-9 bomb detection dog checked the area. There was no explosive device found and the area was re-opened promptly.

SOURCE: 28 January 2020, [Review Journal](#)

(U) Pennsylvania – City Hacked by Cyber Criminals

(U) DuBois – The City of DuBois has been attacked by cyber criminals who have partially disabled their computer systems. Local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies are assisting with the incident and the city does not have much information they can share at this time. The first concern is the safety of the personal information and data in the city's computers and officials are working to see if any of that information was accessed, stolen, or disseminated. Officials do not know at this time if this has occurred. City officials are focused on ensuring there are no further issues, and also regaining access to systems. Once that is done, officials will know more and will provide further information.

SOURCE: 28 January 2020, [Central Pennsylvania News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Burkina Faso – Market attack kills at least 30**

(U) Ouagadougou – Suspected Islamist extremists attacked a busy market in Burkina Faso and killed more than 30 people over the weekend, authorities said, as the West African country's security situation deteriorates. The death toll could be as high as 50, Burkina Faso's national television reported Monday evening. It was the second attack in northern Burkina Faso in a week that has left dozens dead. Meanwhile, the Norwegian Refugee Council warned that as many as 900,000 people could be displaced in the country by April, up from current estimates of 560,000. Extremist attacks are dramatically escalating in Burkina Faso, with deaths rising from about 80 in 2016 to over 1,800 in 2019, according to the United Nations.

SOURCE: 28 January 2020, [Associated Press](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED**(U) Egypt – ISIS Urges Attacks against Jews in Effort to Thwart Peace Plan**

(U) Cairo – The Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) urged its fighters and other Muslims to attack Jews in a purported audio recording released on Monday to thwart US President Donald Trump's Israeli-Palestinian peace plan. The message purported to feature the voice of ISIS spokesman Abu Hamzah al-Quraishi. "We are urging you to join the Caliphate (ISIS) soldiers who are seeking to remove borders and dams that prevent them from fighting Jews," Quraishi said. He especially called on ISIS fighters in its Sinai branch in Egypt as well those in Syria to mount cross-border raids to attack Israeli targets.

SOURCE: 28 January 2020, [Associated Press](#)

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(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

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